

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Special Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland
Thursday, December 11, 2008**

The special study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the upper study chambers on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at the special time, 6:00 o'clock p.m.

Roll Call: Councilors Brian Novak, Mark Herak, Bernie Zemen, and Dan Vassar. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained. Councilor Konnie Kuiper was absent.

Also present: None.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. The Town Council conducted an interview with Mr. David Hansen, II (I), 2842 100th Street, Highland, who expressed interest in being appointed to the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners. The Town Council discussed meeting dates and times with Mr. Hansen and his reasons for seeking the appointment. The Town Council also inquired about his willingness to be paid by direct deposit.

The Town Council discussed with Mr. Hansen his work history and his current employment with P.C. Pounders as well as his recent employment with the Gary Police Department. Mr. Hansen departed the Gary Police Department owing to the contrition owing to budget issues and the new tax policy.

The Town Council discussed with Mr. Hansen whether or not there is anything in his background that may be embarrassing to the Town or him if made public. Mr. Hansen said there was none.

The Town Council inquired as to why Mr. Hansen desired about to the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners. He noted his wife was a Highland native. He indicated that based upon his background, he hoped to do more for his community.

The Town Council inquired how Mr. Hansen would resolve policy difference between the Police Chief and the Town Council. One example was on the issue of retaining *take home police* cars or not owing to budget constraints.

The Town Council and Mr. Hansen discussed his impressions regarding the volume of turnover that the Highland Town Police Department experiences.

The Town Council inquired as to whether or not Mr. Hansen would be interested in any other commission or board for service.

Mr. Hansen departed at this time.

2. The Town Council conducted an interview with Mr. James D. Norris (R), 3119 Lois Place, Highland, who expressed interest in being appointed to the Board of Sanitary Commissioners. The Town Council discussed meeting dates and times with Mr. Norris and his reasons for seeking the appointment. The Town Council also inquired about his willingness to be paid by direct deposit.

Mr. Norris revealed his desire to serve on the Board of Sanitary Commissioners to assist in finding a solution to the recent flooding problems in Town.

The Town Council and Mr. Johnson discussed his current employment, as Mason Supervisor Manager at *Arcelor Mittal* Steel Corporation.

The Town Council discussed with Mr. Norris whether or not there is anything in his background that may be embarrassing to the Town or him if made public. Mr. Norris said there was none.

The Town Council discussed with Mr. Norris his impressions of working with the Town Council, how he would feel about receiving direction from the Town Council. This discussion included on the ways and means of televising certain areas of the sewers infrastructure. The discussion included a discussion of the Town Council's impression of the current working relationship with the Board of Sanitary Commissioners and the competing opinions about the proper solution for remedying the current flooding.

The Town Council discussed whether or not Mr. Norris would be willing to serve on another board or commission. He indicated that he would need to think about it. He reiterated his preference for the Sanitary Board.

Mr. Norris departed at this time.

3. The Town Council conducted an interview with Ms. Vicki L. Crowel (D), 10132 White Oak Lane, Highland, who expressed interest in being appointed to the Park and Recreation Board. The Town Council discussed meeting dates and times with Ms. Crowel and her reasons for seeking the appointment. The Town Council also inquired about her willingness to be paid by direct deposit.

The Town Council discussed with Ms. Crowel her impressions of the existing park system in Highland. The discussion included her impressions of her experiences while working with the Parks and Recreation Department while assisting in the development of the White Oak Estates Park. The discussion included how she might make judgments regarding allocating scarce resources in the several parks. The discussion included adequacy of park prevention for dandelions in parks. The discussion included impressions and expectations of the administrative leadership in the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Town Council discussed with Ms. Powell her impressions of perhaps allocating parks for retention areas for storage.

The Town Council and Ms. Crowel discussed whether or not there was anything in her background that would be embarrassing or discrediting if revealed publically. She said there was none.

Ms. Crowell departed at this time.

4. The Town Council conducted an interview with Mr. Dirk Abe Rivera, 2641 Clough, (D), Highland, who expressed interest in being appointed to the Redevelopment Commission. The Town Council discussed meeting dates and times with Mr. Rivera and his reasons for seeking the appointment. The Town Council also inquired about his willingness to be paid by direct deposit. Mr. Rivera is a financial analyst with Inland Real Estate Group in Oakbrook.

The Town Council discussed with Mr. Rivera his ideas for redevelopment in the downtown area and his suggestions for actions to attract more businesses in the Downtown and the corridor of Kennedy Avenue from Ridge Road to the Little Calumet River. Mr. Rivera expressed his favor of the Redevelopment Plan that has been promulgated by the Town.

The Town Council discussed with Mr. Rivera if there is anything in his background that would be an embarrassment to the Town or him. He indicated that there were none.

The Town Council discussed with Mr. Rivera his reasons for moving to Highland since 2006. In addition, they discussed the types of incentives that the Town is offering as part of its redevelopment methodology.

Mr. Rivera departed at this time.

5. The Town Council conducted an interview with Mr. John Garcia, 3424 41st Place, (D), Highland, who expressed interest in being appointed to the Board of Sanitary Commissioners. The Town Council discussed meeting dates and times with Mr. Garcia and his reasons for seeking the appointment. The Town Council also inquired about his willingness to be paid by direct deposit. Mr. Garcia is the owner manager in Garcia Consulting Engineers.

The Town Council discussed with Mr. Garcia if the Sanitary Board was adequate to address the issues of the flooding or if something additional would be necessary, such as a “strike force” committee. Mr. Garcia discussed his impressions of what the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission should be doing after the completion of the Flood Control Project, particularly the maintenance responsibilities.

The Town Council discussed with Mr. Garcia his impressions of the working relationship between the Board of Sanitary Commissioners and the Town Council. The discussion included the problems of standing water in backyards. Mr. Garcia suggested including placing a 20 foot diameter relief tunnel or pipe running from Cady Marsh to the Little Calumet River, with a pumping station, a sort of “Deep Tunnel” concept, helping the Cady Marsh Ditch, while Kennedy Avenue is open. Mr. Garcia offered additional suggestions on ways and means on addressing the current flooding problems. Mr. Garcia suggested that he would not favor spending money foolishly for appearances and not substantive remediation.

The Town Council and Mr. Garcia whether or not if there was anything in his background that would be a possible issue of embarrassment to the Town. Mr. Garcia said there was none.

Mr. Garcia noted that Mr. Kenneth Van Til, who had been scheduled for the interview immediately following his, asked Mr. Garcia to send his regrets as Mr. Van Til was not feeling well. Mr. Garcia departed at this time.

There being no further interviews or business to come before the Town Council, the special study session of the Town Council, of Thursday, December 11, 2008, was adjourned at 7:55 o’clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA
Clerk-Treasurer